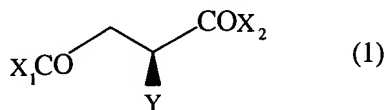


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An inner salt of L-carnitine is prepared by reduction, with a suitable reducing



agent, of a compound of formula (I):

where  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ ,

which may be the same or different, are hydroxy,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy, phenoxy, halogen, or  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , when taken together are an oxygen atom and the resulting compound is a derivative of succinic anhydride; Y is halogen, a mesyloxy or a tosyloxy group, and subsequent treatment with water, then with a base and then with trimethylamine.